NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90)

**United States Department of the Interior National Park Service** 

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "NIA" or "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
======================================
other names/site number Silverbrook United Methodist Church DHR 029-5018
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street & number <u>8616 Silverbrook Road, SR 600</u> not for publication <u>N/A</u> city or town <u>Lorton</u> vicinity
N/A state Virginia code VA county Fairfax code 059 zip code 22079
======================================
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _X_ locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
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L horsely contife that this property is:
I, hereby certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the
See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
removed from the National Register
other (explain):
Signature of Keeper Date of Action
5. Classification
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
X private
public-local public-State
public-state public-Federal
Category of Property (Check only one box)
X building(s) district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing <u>2</u> buildings sites 0 structures 0 objects 2 Total Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0 Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) <u>N/A</u> 6. Function or Use \_\_\_\_\_\_ Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: Religion Sub: Religious Facility Funerary \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery

Cat: _	Religion Funerary	_ Sub: _ _       —	Religious Facility Cemetery	
_				
_		 		
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Architectural Classification (Ent	er categories from instructions)
Late 19th and 20th Cer	ntury Revivals:
Late Gothic Revival	
Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)
foundation <u>stone</u>	<del></del>
roof <u>metal</u>	
walls <u>wood: weath</u>	
wood: shingle	
other	<del> </del>
Narrative Description (Describe on one or more continuation sh	the historic and current condition of the property eets.)
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more	
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)  A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)  A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  X_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period,	
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	B removed from its original location.
	C a birthplace or a grave.
	D a cemetery.
	E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
	F a commemorative property.
	G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions  Architecture	)
Period of Significance1906-1911	
Significant Dates <u>1908</u>	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked about N/A	ove)
Cultural Affiliation N/A	_
Architect/Builder Grimsley, A.W., Builder Harrover, Robert L., Builder	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance one or more continuation sheets.)	ance of the property on
9. Major Bibliographical References	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in prepared continuation sheets.)	aring this form on one or
Previous documentation on file (NPS) preliminary determination of	

or used for religious purposes.

individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	
	Primary Location of Additional Data  X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: Dept. of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Ave. Richmond, VA 23221
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Acreage of Property1.731 Acres_ UTM References (Place additional UTM refe Zone Easting Northing 18 / 305000 / 4288520	rences on a continuation sheet)
See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the b continuation sheet.)	oundaries of the property on a
Boundary Justification (Explain why the bour continuation sheet.)	daries were selected on a

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name/title John C. Wilson
organization Silverbrook United Methodist Church date 09/06/00
street & number 9022 Ridgely Drive telephone (703) 690-2942 city or town Lorton state VA zip code 22079
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Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
======================================
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name <u>Truste</u>	es of the Silverbrook Uni	ted Methodist Church
street & number	8616 Silverbrook Rd	_telephone(703) 690-2942
city or town	Lorton	state <u>VA</u> zip code <u>22079</u>
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

(8-86) OMB

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		Fairfax County, Virginia

#### Summary Paragraph

Silverbrook Methodist Church, at 8616 Silverbrook Road in Lorton, Virginia, is a wellmaintained example of an early-twentieth-century Gothic Revival-style rural church with good architectural integrity. The original church, which contains a sanctuary, was built between 1906 and 1908, and is a rectangular, one-story, one-room, gable-front, frame structure with a projecting front vestibule topped by a bell tower. The church is 24 feet by 40 feet, has weatherboard siding, an uncoursed fieldstone foundation, and a steep gable roof clad with standing-seam metal. Its bell tower is covered with wooden fishscale shingles and is capped by a metal roof and finial. Windows are rectangular topped by a Gothic triangular arch. Connected to the northwest elevation is a one-story cinder block addition added in 1957. It has metal windows and a lower-sloped asphalt shingle roof. Another cinder block addition was added in 1990 to the rear of the first addition and has wooden sash windows and an asphalt shingle roof. There are two noncontributing outbuildings to the rear of the property. The graveyard, located on the northern and rear section of the property, dates from 1911 and is a contributing site. The wooded setting of the church has not changed drastically. The property is in excellent condition.

#### **Architectural Description**

#### **Exterior**

The original church, built between 1906-1908, has a rectangular form, approximately 24 feet by 40 feet, with a projecting bell tower in the front, approximately 4 feet by 8 feet and a rear apse, approximately 4.5 feet by 11.5 feet. The continuous foundation consists of piers with in-fill of uncoursed fieldstone laid with Portland cement and remnants of concrete parging. The frame structure has a crawl space approximately three feet high, with the ceiling of this space being the sanctuary's wood flooring. The floor joists are all visible, allowing the balloon framing at the plate to be seen. The exterior frame walls are covered in wooden weatherboard siding, and are painted white.

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All the windows are the same style and height, consisting of single-hung sashes with clear glass, Gothic tracery, and a triangular arch at the top. Each is framed with flat wooden trim. The steep gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The southwest elevation, or front, consists of the vestibule and bell tower. The building is entered by a set of brick steps to which a wrought-iron railing was added for safety in1999.2

The first stage of the bell tower contains two wooden six-panel doors, and is clad with weatherboard siding. The tower gradually tapers as it rises and is covered in fishscale wooden shingles until it reaches the peak of the main roof. There it becomes vertical, and features a belfry clad with weatherboard siding and a round vent for ventilation.<sup>3</sup> The tower is capped with a pyramidal-shaped metal roof with flared eaves and is topped by a wooden carved scrollwork finial. A window flanks each side of the tower.

The southeast elevation of the church has three windows and a cinder block chimney with a flue for oil heat. The northeast elevation, or rear, has gable-roofed apse, with a window on each perpendicular side wall to the main body of the church. The northwest elevation has one window next to where the addition was added. The first rectangular addition, attached to the rear half of the northwest corner, was completed in 1957 to create two Sunday school rooms and a social hall.<sup>4</sup> The walls are white painted cinder blocks with metal windows and the addition has a normal-pitched asphalt shingle roof. The second addition, completed in 1990, extends beyond the rear of the first addition and is also constructed of white painted cinder blocks with a roof of asphalt shingles but with wooden windows.<sup>5</sup> This addition added a kitchen and two bathrooms.

Two non-contributing structures to the northeast rear of the site are smaller outbuildings of concrete blocks and asphalt shingle roofs. The structure facing southwest was built in 1969 and serves as a storage building. The structure facing northwest, was built in 1976 and served as the privy until the bathrooms were added. This privy replaced a wooden one that was removed. The contributing graveyard to the north of the church is still active. The earliest grave marker is dated 1911; the latest one is dated 1994. There are 40 well-maintained marked graves. The front yard of the church has connecting concrete sidewalks from the front doors to the side door. The driveway and parking lot are gravel and the church has two exits to Silverbrook Road.

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#### **Interior**

The interior of the sanctuary still retains most of the original architectural and religious components. The flooring is tongue-and-groove pine boards with a carpet over it. The interior trim of the windows and doors is four inches wide, molded and stained dark. The ceiling, wainscoting and apse are covered in beaded tongue-and-groove pine boards that are stained dark. The pulpit is centered on a dais fronted by an altar rail with turned balusters. On each side of the apse rises a turned post supporting an unusual arched spindle frieze extending across the top of the apse opening. The white painted walls above the wainscot are drywall. The pews are stained dark and match the wood of the wainscoting. Electric lights have been added, but the original kerosene bracket-type lamps are still attached to the window trim. The northwest wall is where the 1957 addition was added and has flat interior doors leading into the hall.

#### **Landscape**

The landscape of the church property is essentially unchanged. On the southwest side, the prison farm field across the road has not changed since the church was built. The church has always had either a dirt or gravel driveway. The wooded land adjoining the property has stayed intact. On the southeast side the land is now part of a Fairfax County park. The land bordering the northeast property line has newer townhouses with a buffer zone of trees between them and the church. The adjacent parcel to the northwest has new houses, constructed in 2000, with larger single-family homes, but still with a buffer of trees. The church originally was part of a rural farm setting. Now the site it occupies is an oasis of the past in a changing suburban environment.

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				Fairfax County, Virginia

#### **Endnotes**

- 1. Silverbrook Methodist Church Building Committee Minutes, 1906-1909, (Housed at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079), 3, 23.
- 2. Silverbrook United Methodist Church Minutes, 1999, (Housed at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079), 1.
- 3. H.G. Schroeder, *A History of Silverbrook Methodist Church, 1964,* (Housed at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079), 3.
- 4. Ibid, 3.
- 5. Silverbrook United Methodist Church Minutes, 1990, (Housed at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079), 1.
- 6. Bettie G. Wilson, Church Historian, *History of Silverbrook United Methodist Church*, 1977, (Housed at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079), 17-18.
- 7. Ibid, 22-23.

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Fairfax County, Virgini			

#### **Statement of Significance**

Silverbrook United Methodist Church is historically significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C as a church possessing architectural significance. The original chapel was built between 1906-1908 as a Methodist church during the early twentieth century and displays the architectural characteristics of the late Gothic Revival style, with a steep roof, pointed windows and a bell tower. The cemetery, a contributing site, dates from 1911 and adds to the historic context of the resource. Through the years, the church building expanded, adding a small wing for Sunday school classes in 1957. The historic fabric is in excellent condition, and the original chapel retains its historic integrity. Silverbrook stands as the only remaining early-twentieth-century Gothic Revival-style church in Fairfax County that retains its historic integrity.

### **Historical Background**

At the time of Silverbrook's construction, the nearest Methodist church was approximately five miles away and considered too far for the residents of Lorton to walk to, according to Elsie Harrover, the wife of the church carpenter. For the Lorton community in 1906, the act of joining with the Methodist system allowed the residents to feel part of a larger religious whole. However, the decision to build a Gothic Revival-style building connected this small rural farming community to national architectural trends and made the community church part of our national heritage. According to Alan Gowans, the greatest social appeal for the revival of Gothic architecture in the United States was to "create images calling to mind what its proponents considered a more moral social order." Mr. Gowans states further that, to the extent that Gothic was ever fully Americanized, it was the picturesque Gothic Revival vernacular substyle that was best represented by small churches from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Silverbrook Church stands as an excellent example of the late Gothic Revival style with its steep roof, pointed windows and fishscale-covered bell tower rising to a pinnacle.

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At the time of Silverbrook's construction, the Lorton area was a rural, farming portion of Fairfax County, without any church or community meeting place within a reasonable distance for the travel mode of the day.4 In 1906, the church congregation commenced construction and continued until the building was dedicated in 1908.5 The builders were Robert L. Harrover, whose title was main carpenter, and A. W. Grimsley, who was also given credit for the design. The church paid \$20.00 to Mr. & Mrs. Rosenheimer for the land on April 25, 1905, but the deed was not recorded until May 1, 1907.8 The congregation grew, not only as it was the only church in a broad area, but also due to the construction of the Lorton Correctional Complex that was started in 1908.9 Silverbrook Church continues to serve as a focus for this community, as its surroundings have changed to a suburban bedroom community, with uninterrupted religious affiliation. This building also serves this community as a meeting place for other social activities. Throughout its life, Silverbrook has hosted community organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, Little League Baseball and community association meetings for certain subdivisions, such as Lorfax Heights; also, it has served Fairfax County as a precinct for voting. Throughout the life of the church, it has served as a bonding agent for the community by creating an opportunity for people to meet and work together.

As Silverbrook evolved, first electricity was added, then building additions and then plumbing. The church and the community evolved together, as in the beginning, to accomplish these projects. Most of the maintenance and construction throughout the years has allowed this church to outreach with more efficiency to the community, and encouraging volunteer labor and materials from members, non-members and businesses alike. Silverbrook's graveyard, a contributing resource, continues to serve the funerary needs of the community. The earliest stone is dated 1911, and the most recent is dated 1994, with a total of 40 well-maintained graves. Silverbrook, at the present time, is in excellent repair with continuing attention to preserving the original historic material. The Gothic Revival chapel exterior is unaltered, except where an addition connects. The landscape of Silverbrook is virtually unaltered from its historic setting, with a buffer of trees that separate Silverbrook from newer construction.

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#### Conclusion

Silverbrook has been included in a multiple-property determination of potential eligibility, that includes the Lorton Correctional Complex. In the final Eligibility Report for the General Services Administration, Silverbrook was determined to be eligible under Criterion C as a church possessing architectural significance. Silverbrook is also listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historical Sites. Silverbrook has, in the past, served the community in a rural setting, and now not only serves the changing suburban environment, but gives people a chance to get in touch with their rural past through this fine, well-maintained example of late Gothic Revival-style architecture. After researching records in the Fairfax County Historical Resource Office and upon conducting a windshield survey, Silverbrook remains as the only early-twentieth-century late Gothic Revival-style church in Fairfax County that retains historic integrity.

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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#### **Endnotes**

- 1. H.G. Schroeder, *A History of Silverbrook Methodist Church, 1964,* (Housed at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079), 2.
- 2. Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture*, (New York, N.Y.: Harper Collins, 10 East 53rd Street, NY, 10022, 1992), 139.
- 3. Ibid, 153.
- 4. H.G. Schroeder, 2.
- 5. Silverbrook Methodist Church Building Committee Minutes, (Housed at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079, 1906-1909), 23.
- 6. Ibid.
- 7. Ibid.
- 8. Original deed Fairfax County Deed Book, X 6, 0556, May 1, 1907.
- 9. Michael J. Simon and David C. Berg, "Historic Structures Determination of Eligibility Report, Lorton Correctional Complex, Lorton, Fairfax County, Va.," (Housed at State Historic Resource Office, 107 N. Kent Street, Suite 203, Winchester, Va., 22601, 2000), 8.
- 10. Ibid, 22 and 27.
- 11. Ibid, 27.
- 12. Master List: Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, July 30, 2002, with accompanying map. (Housed at Fairfax County Historical Resource Office, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 730, Fairfax Va., 22035, July 30, 2002.)

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#### Major Bibliographical References

Calvert, D.N. *Directory and Yearbook of the Occoquan Circuit* (including Silverbrook Church). Alexandria District, Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church, 1940.
(Copy with Silverbrook United Methodist Church Historian, Bettie G. Wilson, 9125 Ridgely Drive., Lorton, Va., 22079).

Fairfax County, Va. Deed Book, X6, pg. 0556.

Fairfax Herald. 15 Dec. 1905, 3.

Fairfax Herald. 3 Jul.1908, 3.

Fairfax Herald. 7 Dec. 1906, 3.

Fairfax Herald. 8 Nov. 1907, 3.

Fairfax Herald. 24 Jul. 1908, 2, 3 and 4.

Fairfax Herald. 11 Dec. 1908, 3.

Fairfax Herald. 31 Mar. 1916, 3.

Fairfax Herald. 29 Mar.1929, 3.

Fairfax Herald. 17 Oct. 1930, 3.

Furner, Barbara A. "Extant Churches" in Fairfax County before 1942. Copy located at Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia Room, 3915 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Va., 22030.

Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architectures: Social Function and Cultural Expression. New York: Harper Collins, 10 East 53rd Street, NY, 10022, 1992.

Master List: Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, with accompanying map. Available at Fairfax County Historic Resource Office, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 730, Fairfax, Va., 22035, July 30, 2002.

Metz, Cara H. Recommendation Letter to Phil Youngberg. Available at Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Va., 23221.

Pruett, Charles R. "Site Plan of Addition to Silverbrook Church,"drawing by Certified Land Surveyor, Lorton, Va. Fairfax County Planning and Zoning Office, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Va., 22035, 1983.

Schroeder, H.G. *A History of Silverbrook Methodist Church, 1964* (including oral interview quotations from Elsie Harrover, who was the wife of the original builder). Available at the Archives for Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 11367, Richmond, Va., 23230.

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dibliogra	nhy Contin	d	

- Bibliography Continued
- Silverbrook United Methodist Church Minutes, 1990 and 1999. Located at Silverbrook UMC, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079.
- Silverbrook Methodist Church Minutes, 1906-1909. Located with the Silverbrook United Methodist Church Historian, Bettie G. Wilson, 9125 Ridgely Drive, Lorton, Va., 22079.
- Simon, Michael J. and David C. Berg. "Historic Structures Determination of Eligibility Report, Lorton Correctional Complex, Lorton, Fairfax County, Va." To Heery International, Inc., for General Services Administration. Available at Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc., 9001 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, Md., 20770, 2000.
- Stephenson, Richard W. Cartography of Northern Virginia, Facsimile Reproductions of Maps Dating From 1608 to 1915. Fairfax, Va.: History and Archaeology Section, Office of Comprehensive Planning, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1983.
- Tax Map. Tax Map Division, Fairfax County, Va., Tax Map Section 98-3.
- Tucker, C.A., ed., 1940. *Virginia Conference Annuals of the Methodist Church*. Richmond, Va.: Central Publishing Co., Inc., 1940.
- United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Reston, VA 22092. Quadrangle Map--Fort Belvoir, VA.-MD.
- Ward and Hall and Associates, A.I.A. Architectural Drawings of Last Addition to Silverbrook United Methodist Church. Located at Suite 1000, 6320 Augusta Drive, Springfield, Va., April 10, 1982.
- Whetzel, Richard. Informal interview by author with designer and builder of first addition to Silverbrook United Methodist Church, July 16, 2000.
- Wilson, Bettie G. "History of Silverbrook United Methodist Church." Located at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Va., 22079, 1977.
- Wilson, Harold J. & Bettie G. Informal interview by author with oldest continuing members at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, July 22, 2000.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Silverbrook United Methodist Church property is shown on Fairfax County, Virginia, Tax Map Section 98-3.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of Silverbrook United Methodist Church includes the original sanctuary with its later additions, two outbuildings, a graveyard, a picnic area, a parking area with driveways, an open grassy space and wooded areas around its perimeter. The boundary has not changed since its beginning.

No. 1024-0018 (8-86) OMB

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Section Photographs Page 12 Silverbrook Methodist Church Fairfax County, Virginia

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<u>Photographs</u>

Property: Silverbrook United Methodist Church

8616 Silverbrook Road Lorton, VA 22079

VDHR# 029-5018

Photographer: John C. Wilson

Date of Photographs: May 11, 2000

Location of original negatives: Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, VA 23221

Information above pertains to all photographs.

Photo:

1. Church Building: Principal Elevation

**Looking East** 

Negative #18574 Frame #22A

Picture 1 of 6

2. Church Building: Steeple

Looking Northeast

Negative #18574 Frame #8A

Picture 2 of 6

**3.** Church Building: Rear Elevation

Looking Southwest

Negative #18574 Frame #14A

Picture 3 of 6

OMB

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Silverbrook Methodist Church Fairfax County, Virginia

### Photographs Continued

4. Church Building: Interior
Looking Northeast
Negative #18574 Frame #11A
Picture 4 of 6

5. Outbuildings and Cemetery
Looking Southeast
Negative #18574 Frame #20A
Picture 5 of 6

6. Church Building: Principal Elevation and Setting Looking Northeast
Negative #18574 Frame #16A
Picture 6 of 6